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HOUSE RESOLUTION 38  
By Phillips

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Judy Tillett Young for her accomplishments in the Tennessee Walking Horse community.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence, bring honor to the state of Tennessee and serve as fine examples of the quality of this state's populace; and

WHEREAS, Judy Tillett Young is one such noteworthy individual who has attained the highest levels of achievement; a renowned equestrienne, Mrs. Young was recognized by her peers as Junior Rider of the Century in 1999; and

WHEREAS, daughter of Joe and Dorothy Tillett, Judy Gail Tillett received her first pony, Smokey, at six years of age; at this young age, she began to learn the skills of horsemanship and balance which would allow her to become one of the greatest riders in the world; and

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WHEREAS, three years later, the young Judy Tillett began her competitive career aboard Gentleman Jim; the pair won numerous competitions in the Middle Tennessee area as Judy developed into a tremendous young rider; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1964, Judy quickened her ascension to the highest level of competition by acquiring 1964 Amateur Mare World Champion Untouchable; Judy and Untouchable went on to show undefeated in junior classes during the 1966, 1967, and 1968 seasons, winning six world championships and every major horse show in the country during those years; and

WHEREAS, Judy and Untouchable retired two World Champion Challenge Trophies by winning each trophy three times; and

WHEREAS, in her final year as a junior rider, Judy competed at the famed Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration with a little-known mare, Black Magic Woman; beginning with a junior championship in 1971, the rider and horse would combine to compile an impressive record that surpassed even that posted by Judy and Untouchable; and

WHEREAS, after making the transition to the Amateur class in 1972, Judy and Black Magic Woman earned six blue ribbons for Celebration championships, retired two Challenge Trophies, and were undefeated at all major competitions for three consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, few who saw Judy Tillett compete atop Black Magic Woman will ever forget the noble sight of the graceful black mare and the striking young woman in the orange riding coat with a black ribbon in her hair; and

WHEREAS, formally retiring Black Magic Woman at the 1977 Celebration, Judy Tillett continued her remarkable success after purchasing Ebony's Mountain Man in that same year; she rode the horse to two championships, and, in 1980, professional trainer Sammy Day rode Ebony's Mountain Man to the highest title in the sport, World Grand Champion; and

WHEREAS, Judy Tillett experienced incredible success in the 1983 season, winning several World Championships, two World Grand Championships, and the Futurity Stallion Championship; and

WHEREAS, overcoming a 1984 barn fire that claimed the lives of numerous show horses, including World Grand Championship contender Black Santana, Judy Tillett completed a successful 1985 campaign that included another World Championship; her greatest success was experienced away from the show ring, however, as she and Ronal Young joined each other in holy matrimony; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Grand Celebration Hall of Fame inducted Judy Tillett Young as its newest member; in doing so, it made her the first amateur rider ever to join that prestigious group of competitors; and

WHEREAS, the year 1987 brought with it two major losses for the Tennessee Walking Horse Community; Joe Tillett, Judy Tillett Young's father and her greatest show ring supporter, met an untimely death; also, Judy interrupted her riding career, not to ride at the Celebration again until 1993, when she won the Owner-Amateur Riders on Four-Year-Old Mares or Gelding Specialty with Pusher's Lady Threat; and

WHEREAS, after resuming her show career, Judy Tillett Young proved that she was still one of the top equestrians in the world by winning another World Championship with Memories of Santana, the only grandson of her beloved Black Magic Woman; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Judy and Ronal Young purchased two-year-old prospect Figgy Puddin, and, that fall, Judy won another World Championship and placed third in the World Grand Championship; the remarkable feats, for such a young horse, led to the Youngs' selling Figgy Puddin for the highest price that they had ever received for a steed; and

WHEREAS, Judy Tillett Young met the greatest challenge of her life in early 2000, as she was diagnosed with colon cancer; undergoing major surgery and six months of chemotherapy; she faced the sickness with the spirit, determination, and strength that were

displayed through her riding career, aided by the support of her devoted husband and of the entire horse industry; and

WHEREAS, after not mounting a horse for a year, Judy Tillett Young returned to competition at the 2000 Celebration riding Freda Bullard's Hy-Tone Dancer; despite first riding the horse only two days before she showed, she rode Hy-Tone Dancer to another Amateur World Championship; and

WHEREAS, Judy Tillett Young has compiled a legacy that is unparalleled among amateur riders; her form, grace, and showmanship surpass even that of many professional trainers, and her smile and magnetic personality have endeared her to fans nationwide; and

WHEREAS, possessing estimable accomplishments in all of her undertakings, including an amazing twenty-nine Celebration blue ribbons, Mrs. Young provides an excellent example of the tremendous success that can be achieved by those Tennesseans who possess the determination, drive, and dedication to take full advantage of their innate talents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend and honor Judy Tillett Young for her substantial accomplishments in the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, recognize her indelible legacy as a competitor, offer our thanks for the honor which she has brought to this state, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.